

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 00278 191548Z

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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P 191233Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5932

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 0278

STADIS/EXDIS////////////////////////////////////

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

PARIS FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, SA

SUBJ: REQUEST BY SENATOR FULBRIGHT FOR 1971-72 DEPARTMENT

OIL POLICY STUDY

REF: STATE 011321 (NOTAL)

1. I PREPARED THE EARLY DRAFTS IN 1970 AND EARLY 1971 AFTER
LONG CONVERSATIONS WITH OIL COMPANIES, OIL CONSULTANTS AND

OTHER GOVERNMENT EXPERTS. A FINAL DRAFT (GREEN COVER, ENTITLED
"THE INTERNATIONAL OIL INDUSTRY THROUGH 1980") WAS PREPARED
IN DECEMBER 1971 AND WAS DISTRIBUTED BY UNDER SECRETARY IRWIN
AND ME IN THAT MONTH AND IN EARLY 1972 TO TOP U.S. OFFICIALS
INCLUDING SECRETARYIES CONNALLY, LAIRD, VOLPE, AND AEC CHAIR-
MAN SCHLESINGER.

2. PAPER WAS WRITTEN WITH THE INTENTION OF GIVING IT, ON CON-
FIDENTIAL BASIS, TO KEY SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES. LACK OF
UNDERSTANDING OF THE ENERGY PROBLEM IN CONGRESS SEEMED MUCH
MORE ACUTE THAN THAT OF EXECUTIVE BRANCH, AND MANY OF
THE ACTION PROPOSALS WOULD HAVE REQUIRED CONGRESSIONAL
APPROVAL.

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PAGE 02 JIDDA 00278 191548Z

3. CONGRESS LEARNED OF THE PAPER EARLY IN 1972 BUT SECRETARY ROGERS REFUSED TO RELEASE IT. AS FAR AS I KNOW NO COPY WAS EVER GIVEN BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO ANY CONGRESSMAN. AT THE TIME, HOWEVER, I HEARD THAT THE DOMESTIC COUNCIL HAD MADE COPIES AVAILABLE TO KEY CONGRESSMAN. I DOUBT IF THIS WAS TRUE, AS THE RUMOR WAS NEVER CONFIRMED TO ME BY ANYONE IN THE WHITE HOUSE OR BY ANY CONGRESSMAN HIMSELF.

4. THE DRAFT WAS EXPURGATED AND CONSIDERABLY WEAKENED ON INSTRUCTIONS OF UNDER SECRETARY SAMUELS WHO FEARED REPRECUSIONS FROM ARABS (AND OTHERS) IF THE DOCUMENT WERE EVER LEAKED TO THE PRESS. A NEW DRAFT (WHITE COVER, ENTITLED I THINK, "U.S. AND THE IMPENDING ENERGY CRISIS") WAS THEREFORE PREPARED AND ALL THOSE WHO HAD BEEN GIVEN THE ORIGINAL VERSIONS WERE ASKED TO RETURN THEM TO FSE. THEY WERE ALL RETURNED. I DO NOT KNOW IF COPIES WERE MADE BY ANY OF THE ORIGINAL ADDRESSEES.

5. I WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION WHATSOEVER TO GIVING COPIES OF EITHER THE GREEN OR THE WHITE VERSION TO SENATOR FULBRIGHT OR OTHERS IN CONGRESS. SHOULD THE DEPARTMENT, AFTER REVIEWING IT, DECIDE FOR ANY REASON TO RELEASE THE STUDY TO THE PUBLIC, I WOULD NOT OBJECT.

AKINS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, STUDIES, LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, PRICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974JIDDA00278
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P750001-1656
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740130/aaaabtp.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: 74 STATE 11321, STATE 011321 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <30-Sep-2002 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUEST BY SENATOR FULBRIGHT FOR 1971-72 DEPARTMENT OIL POLICY STUDY
TAGS: PGOV, ENRG, US, SA, OPEC, (FULBRIGHT, J WILLIM)
To: STATE PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005